

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.121 as follows (see the accompanying "marked up" version pursuant to 1.121):

8. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid encoding an EER-7 protein having an amino acid sequence comprising at least 10 contiguous amino acids from the sequence depicted in SEQ ID NO:2 or which has at least 60% sequence similarity with SEQ ID NO:2, which EER-7 protein has (i) lysyl oxidase activity; (ii) comprises four copies of a SRCR domain having a sequence greater than 80% similar to a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 3, 4, 5, and 6; and (iii) comprises a conserved catalytic domain of lysyl oxidase enzymes having a sequence as depicted in SEQ ID NO: 7.

30. (Amended) A method for identifying a compound that selectively regulates *EER-7* mRNA transcription through an estrogen receptor, which method comprises detecting a difference in the level of *EER-7* mRNA in an assay system comprising transformed cells that express different functional estrogen receptors, wherein the number of cells is sufficient to transcribe a detectable amount of mRNA encoding EER-7 contacted with a test compound, wherein a difference in the level of *EER-7* mRNA indicates that the test compound selectively regulates the estrogen